An Answer of the Committee of Seventeen, Representing the *EAST-INDIA* Company of the *NEATHERLANDS*, given up the States General of the United Provinces; In Answer to Two Memorials, the one given by Mr. *Chudley*, Envoy of His Majesty of *Great Brittain*, and the other given in by Mr. *Chardyn*, touching the Affairs of *BANTHAM*.

To the High and Mighty Lords, the States General of the United Provinces.

High and Mighty Lords,

THE Committee of Seventeen, Representing the General *Dutch East-India* Company, in Obedience to a Letter from your Lordships, dated the 8th. of *June*, We have met in the *Hague*, and have seen, read, and Examined two Propositions, the one by Mr. *Chudley*, Extraordinary Envoy from His Majesty of *Great-Brittain*, which was first given by him by Word of mouth, and then in Writing, on the 23rd. of last *May*: The other delivered to the Deputies of your Lordships, first by word of mouth, and then in Writing, on the of *June* last, by Mr. *Chardyn*, which agreed with the aforesaid Proposition of Mr. *Chudley*, in which Complains, That the Servants of this Company at *Bavaria*, have Outragiously and with force, given the *English* Factors and others of that Nation, from *Bantam*; to which there are also other Aggravations: And that they desire your Lordships to withdraw your Garrison out of *Bantam*; As also, to make Reparation of what Damages the Subjects of the aforesaid King have sustained in that Attack: The Propositions of *Chardin*, Kt. contain a Relation of several Attacks and particular Crimes committed by our Nation there: Upon which, your Lordships, by your Letters on the aforesaid 2d. *June*, command Inspection into that Affair by this Committee, with due Respects we acquaint your Lordships, That as we came to compare these Complaints, with Letters and other Evidences, that this Company has received out of the *Indies*, it appears by Essential and Notable Evidences, That the Complaint of the *English* Company is Frivilous, and that instead of Complaints, they ought to own themselves obliged in the highest to our Company, for the many Friendships, good Offices, and Assistance that they have given and shewn in this Juncture of Affairs to them, as it is well known to the *English* Company in the *Indies*, and they have not failed to acknowledge it: And if pretences of Damages be made, this Company has also somewhat to say on their part; as also no small Pretences to make, and to lay all plain naked to view, and to shew the groundlesness of the aforesaid Complaints and Demands arising thence, it's necessary therefore to be brief, Be it known, 'tis not the first time this Company has had Quarrels, nay, open War with *Bantam*. The *Sultan*, Father of this present King, possessed with an Ambitious Spirit, has not only at divers times injured others of his Neighbours, but also has used several Outragious Violences, and made open War upon our Subjects of *Bavaria* at several times, particularly in the Years 1657, 58, 59. the which War was ended in 1659, by a Treaty of Peace, &c. Amongst which Articles was inserted, a Rule to be observed by those two Nations, by the aforesaid Peace, was in a short time broke by the aforesaid Prince; first by Debauching, carrying away, and detaining of our Slaves, to a great number: after which, they went directly against Treaty, by detaining Free Inhabitants, nay Servants of the Company; and further, fell in a Hostile manner on our Villages, Burning them and a Plundering them, and carryed away Men and Cattle; they also fell upon them by Water, both by Sea and on the Shore; they set upon our Sloops and Boats, and threw the people over-board into the Sea, so Murdering them: They also fell upon the Comptoir of the Company at *Andrigry*, upon the *Sumatra*, by Night, and did likewise Murder our Factors, among which, was the head Officer; they went so far, that the Prince aforesaid, the more to stir up his Subjects to Murder and Pillage, he set a *Premium* of 20 pieces of Eight for every Head of a *Neederlander*, and 10 pieces of Eight for the Head of each other Inhabitant of *Bavaria*, and notwithstanding our continual Complaint, he deferred to Right us, but at last insolently told us, If we protected our Neighbours, which we were highly oblieg'd to do, he would declare War against us; and although our General and Counsel thought and wrote in Letters to us expressed, that they thought they ought to pay those of *Bantam* in the same Coin, which demonstrating the impossibility of bearing any longer the Injuries, Damages, and Offences, and keep Peace, where Ungodly Neighbours sought a War, yea, sufficiently did exercise it; so that they were forced to put themselves to as great a Charge to put themselves into a posture of Defence, but they were still dehorted from it, not so much out of fear that they could not succeed in it against them, as so long as there was any hope of an Accomodation, the Company could not get any advantage, although they got the better: As also, that the *European* Nations, especially the *English*, might not be damaged and disturbed; which Order was punctually observed by our General and Counsel there; nay, after the War in the Territories of *Mattaram*, in which the Company had brought the *Sousouhounany* Triumphantly off against his Rebels, which were assisted by the *Bantamers*, and by that means were in a good state to Revenge themselves as they would desire. The Case standing thus, and the old King fearing he should be requited for his Outrages, it fell unexpectedly out, that on the of *May*, 80. two Ambassadors came from *Bantam* to *Bavaria* with a Train of 300 Persons and *Credentials*, from the young King, in which only his own Name was inserted; whereupon some Reflections being made, the Ambassadors declared, That 7 days before the old *Sultan* Resigned up his whole Empire to his Eldest Son, the aforesaid young King, and that according to Custom in those Countries (at the change of Governors) they were come to renew their old Alliance and to Treat of Peace; and although the Resident of the Company at *Bantam*, came with them to

Confirm it; yet all Scruples arising from such an unexpected Providence, not being taken away, one of the aforesaid Ambassadors returned to *Bantam*, from whence he brought more Satisfactory Evidences. Upon which, the Treaty began, although all old Contracts had been violated and broken, and all manner of Hostillities both by Water and Land, were acted against us, for which we demanded Satisfaction in very moderate Terms, that it might appear we sought nothing but a continuation of the Old Friendship: Upon which demands, the Ambassadors owned they were Convinced of the Injury done us; but declared, they had no Orders to Treat about them, as being things done in the Reign of the Old King, saying, *They were come only to Renew the Old League, and if there were any other Demands they must Address themselves to the King their Master at* Bantam. Our Envoys were thereupon sent to *Bantam* to demand Satisfaction as aforesaid, but Excuses were made to decline the same, and 'twas proposed notwithstanding to continue a good undertaking and Neighbourhood; in Conformity to which the aforesaid King forbid his Subjects (by *Drum beat*) not to do any Injury to our Subjects (upon great Penalty) either by Water or by Land; further promising us, to restore all our Fugitives, either Freemen or Slaves: Further shewing us, That it would be acceptable to him if we Complemented the former King his Father, which they did, and he recommended it to them to hold a good Alliance and Neighbourhood with his Son: And it appears clearly, that the young King has since, only in his own Name, exercised Regal Authority, by his sending Ambassadors to *England* in 1681. and also by the old Kings withdrawing from *Bantam* the Regal City; And further, by the Addresses made by other Nations to the young King, as alone in Regal Authority: And 'tis well known, the Father was onely a private Prince, and had reserved no part of the Soveraign Regallity of *Bantam*: As to what was Negotiated with the *BANTAM* Ambassadors in *ENGLAND*, we can say nothing positively, but the World knows they were at their Departure, furnished with a great quantity of Canon, and other Warlike Ammunitions, which the *English East-India* Company presented; and that it's an old and substantial Complaint of our people at *Bavaria*, That the Old King of *Bantam*, has been several times furnished in the like manner from *England*, and he has been more and more animated thereby against us. After the settleing of the aforesaid Alliance with *Bantam*, there happened in that Kingdom, great Factions and Divisions, as also great Jealousies arose between the Young and Old King; the Son complaining of the Actions of the Father, and the Father of the Sons; insomuch that it seems the Father Repented his resigning up of the Kingdom to his Son. Now being in a Private Capacity, began to Cabal against the Son, and to make a Party, insomuch that they strengthened themselves against each other; The Son at *Bantam* makes a Fortification, and the Father builds Stone Work at his Residence at *Tuttiassa*, as also one on the River *Tuara*; which Fire, after a while lying smothering, at last broke out into a light flame, and came to an open War, so that the Father Marches against the Son with the Forces he had gathered: and in the first place he took in *Bantam*, and wasted and burnt it, and proceeded to make himself Master of the whole Shoar, and the Forts upon it, as also of all the Passes, designing to force his Son in the aforesaid Fortress, and set a younger Son on the Throne.

The present King being brought to the outmost Extremity, by reason there was no access to him, but by those well skilled in the ways, and that by stealth, he applyed himself to those of *Bavaria*, with earnest intreaty for assistance from the Companies, and to be taken into their Protection; declaring, without it he was not able to defend the *Neatherland* Lodge against his Rebells; which Application being made on the 10*th.* of *February*, 1682. was not Precipitately granted by the General and Council; but after long Deliberations it was resolved, to send a Friendly Mediation both to Father and Son; and two Letters were sent to Father and Son, by Major *Stephen Martin*, on the 16*th.* of *March*, to *Bantam*, but the Father would not receive them till the 19*th.* and then sent for them by *English*, *French*, and *Danes*, but vouchsafed no Answer holding. The aforesaid King in the mean time in the aforesaid Castle closer and closer besieged, so that Major *Stephen Martin* was obliged by many Letters from the Young King, to endeavour to Land, as being the only means to free him, but was opposed and hindred that day by the Rebels, whose Canons were most Traversed by *English* Canonneirs, and did much Dammage both to the Ships and Men, of the *Dutch* Company; upon which the aforesaid *Stephen Martin* being reinforced with more Men and Ships, as also Orders to attempt again to Land, and releive the King, that was in the outmost Extremity; and at last, on the 7*th.* of *April*, they beat off the Rebels for all the great resistance they made, and releived the King, and took in the Passes, with no small loss upon the [illegible] of *Bavaria*; the Enemy shewed themselves in Acts of Hostility, but they had such Reception, as made them March off in disorder, with the loss of which Actions under the Command of the aforesaid King, lasted till *November* last, according to our last Advice, which has been very chargeable to our Company. But at last the Old King and his Adherents were driven into *Tuttiassa*, and the Hills Adjacent. Few days after the relief of the Young King, the *English* Company residing at *Bantham*, sent Letters by some of their Company, Addressed to the General, and Council at *Bavaria*; and after Congratulation of our success, desired them to send them a Ship of 500 Tun, to fetch off, and Transport their Effects from *Bantam*, for which they offered to pay the Freight. They also desired Liberty to hire a House in *Batavia*, to put their Goods in; and further, That they would give Orders the Servants of the Company, to Comport themselves according to the usual Love and Friendship of the *Dutch*, towards them. Upon which the Generals and Council, to shew their readiness and kindness, immediately lent them the *Europe*, a Ship of 1200 Tuns, and also allowed their Retreat to *Batavia*; thereupon they fearing to stay in *Bantam* any longer, with all secrecy Shiped themselves on Board the *Return*, without taking leave of the King, and retired to *Bavaria*, on the 18*th.* of *April*, leaving the grosse of their Effects in *Bantam*; to fetch which, there were three other Ships sent, viz. The new *Midlburg*, the *West*, and the great *Fly-Boat*, *Delphs-Haven*; all which, with some of the *English* Company that were necessary to Ship the Goods, and enter them, returned to *Bavaria*, full Loaden with Peper, *&c.* As also the Houshold stuff of the aforesaid Company, to *Bavaria*; all which they could not have done, unless the *Dutch* Company had not interceeded with the King, and helped them: for that King and People were so set against them, that they could not get a Boat, nor a Porter to help Ship their Goods, but all was done by help of the *Dutch*; the King being greatly Incensed at the Conduct of the *English*, as to himself, and was greatly wondered that the *Dutch* Companies should speak in their favour, or be helpful to them, by reason 'twas apparent, they by their Arm in Traversing Guns, did most hurt to our Ships, as well as the *Bastil*. The *Dutch* Company also sustained great loss for want of four Ships so long; and although the *English* were obliged to give us our Ships sooner, especially when they had other Ships of their own from several Quarters, besides two *English* Ships belonging to particular persons, that were earnestly desired by the *Dutch* Company, to Ship the aforesaid Goods: But the *English* imployed their Ships in other Expeditions, and let our Ships lye Loaden with their Effects and Lumber, before *Bavaria*.

The matter of fact being layed down in the aforesaid Relation, we refer it to the Wisdome of your High and Mighty Lordships, to consider, whether or no there be any Foundation for such severe Complaints, and Demands of Satisfaction for Dammages and Injuries sustained; as also to withdraw our Troops from thence.

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